

Judge Luciano Panzani, President of Rome's Court of Appeals, hosted a roundtable and invited six Italian prosecutors and judges with backgrounds of environmental law to brief EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in Rome on June 9, 2017.

The EPA Administrator highlighted his three main concerns: the "Rule of Law" – the laws must be clear and certain; "Process" – citizens and stakeholders will have time to comment on EPA proposals, but after a set time period, the rule will be fixed and enforced; and "Federalism" – environmental law, policy, and progress are all based on cooperation among the states, cooperation between the states and EPA, and cooperation between regulators and the public.

Among EPA priorities, Administrator Pruitt mentioned investment in water infrastructures throughout the country, improvement of air quality where needed, and the appointment of a task force for prioritizing the 1,320 Superfund sites and expedite their cleanup process.

Regarding climate change, Pruitt stated that, even though the United States withdrew from the Paris Agreement, President Trump and his administration will certainly continue to engage on the subject. Pruitt added that the United States has already made progress in decreasing CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 18% from 2000, and environmental pollutants (e.g. NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>) by 65% from 1980.

The Italian participants explained the May 22, 2015 n.68 Law, also known as the "Eco-crime" law, which added five new crimes to the Italian Criminal Code: environmental pollution; environmental disaster; radioactive-waste trafficking; obstruction to monitoring; and omitted environmental remediation. The Law provides for penalties that can be up to twenty years imprisonment, and doubled the limitation periods. According to Public Prosecutor Francesco Prete, the law now provides adequate tools for preventing and repressing environmental crimes. Prete said that the state renounces the polluter's punishment if he cleans up the site and pays a financial penalty, but the sentence will be much more severe if the organized crime is involved. All the Italian participants stressed the importance of cooperation among administrative bodies (e.g. the Regional Environmental Agencies, the Local Health Agencies, and the Fire Departments) and judicial authorities (the enforcement authorities, and the judiciary – including Anti-Mafia prosecutors – system) to combat environmental crime.